

## A different kind of patriotism

Most of Georgia's public records for the colonial and revolutionary periods were lost or destroyed when the British occupied Savannah during the Revolutionary War. But part of these records were preserved intact, thanks to the amazing efforts of one man. As Allen Candler relays in the Preface to *The Colonial and State Records of Georgia*:

"When Savannah fell into the hands of the British in December, 1778, the Secretary of State, **Captain John Milton**, by order of Governor Houstoun, conveyed the most important records of his office and that of the Governor to Charleston to prevent their capture by the enemy...

"Prior to the fall of Charleston, in May, 1780, Secretary Milton again removed his records, this time overland in wagons from Charleston to Newbern, North Carolina, where he left them in the care of Governor Nash of that State, and returned to the army. Later on, when Georgia and South Carolina had been entirely overrun by the British and Tories, and North Carolina was invaded, and the Georgia records were again in danger of capture, Captain Milton got leave of absence from his command and carried them to Maryland, where they remained until after the close of the war, when they were brought back to Georgia."

Donna Newman, Nov 2023 submission to DAR newsletter